

## ASIAN AMERICANS/PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN PHILANTHROPY (AAPIP)

### ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

#### **Introduction**

This fiscal year for AAPIP is significant on many levels and we are pleased to provide a summary of our work. AAPIP has been at the forefront of advancing racial equity in philanthropy, providing space for AAPIs and allies in philanthropy to process and respond to this profound moment around health and economic impacts of the pandemic and the complex intersections of anti-Black and anti-Asian racism. We've created new Census mapping tools and held conversations at all leadership levels in philanthropy in response to the rapidly changing environment. We are examining the state of AAPI philanthropy, organizing our eleven chapters, giving circle networks and other leaders for unique added value and philanthropic impact. We do all of this and more because effective strategies to address racial equity must include AAPIs.

#### **Executive Transition**

The year began with saying farewell to Cora Mirikitani who served as AAPIP's President since 2015 and welcoming in Patricia Eng as the incoming President beginning in September. Pat's career has spanned the non-profit, philanthropic, and government sectors. Previously serving as a co-chair of AAPIP's New York chapter, Pat has been able to hit the ground running to build on AAPIP's work and renewing relationships across regions. Several welcome receptions were held in the first several months to introduce or re-introduce Pat to the AAPIP community. We thank the East Bay Community Foundation in Oakland and the Ford Foundation in New York for hosting some of those receptions last Fall.

#### **AAPIP Connect**

**AAPIP Connect** is a newsletter produced on a monthly basis with fresh and thoughtful content, such as, [The Final Decade of the "Model Minority" Myth](#) and [Juneteenth: A New Frame of Reverence](#). This newsletter has enabled AAPIP to regularly connect with our membership and stakeholders to inspire and advance philanthropic movement. The newsletter gathers articles and thought pieces of interest while also highlighting related efforts of our membership.

#### **CHANGE Philanthropy Unity Summit**

The CHANGE Philanthropy Unity Summit took place in November in Seattle. As an original core partner and a steering committee member, AAPIP helped to open and close the summit with welcoming and closing remarks. Now the largest conference in the philanthropic sector, CHANGE partners include: AAPIP; Association of Black Foundation Executives (ABFE); Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy (EPIP); Funders for LGBTQ Issues, Hispanics in Philanthropy, Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP), Women's Funding Network (WFN), National Center for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP); Neighborhood Funders Group (NFG); and the Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity (PRE).

AAPIP also took the opportunity to host a welcome reception for CHANGE participants and Seattle Chapter members. The turnout was tremendous and a wonderful way to introduce Pat as the new President of AAPIP. In addition, a dinner with AAPI CEOs in philanthropy was held to begin building community among top leaders.

### **Census Mapping Tool**

AAPIP, in partnership with AAPI Data, launched a [new mapping tool](#) that provides detailed census-tract level maps for the 20 largest metropolitan areas for Asian Americans and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders (NHPI) in the United States. It was created to take a closer look at specific demographics and intended to support local efforts toward a full Census count.

### **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Solidarity Matters**

AAPIP's national network convening and annual meeting was scheduled for early June, but was canceled due to the pandemic. It was to be the launchpad for AAPIP's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration under the theme Solidarity Matters, and that theme resonates even more in this new moment.

The pandemic kicked off another round of anti-Asian racism in this country alongside the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. It exposed the deep fault lines around race, culminating in a new awakening around the deeply entrenched and pervasive legacy of anti-Black racism.

AAPIP responded in a timely way with the following:

- A [statement on COVID-19](#) in early March which has been circulated by other philanthropy serving organizations and foundations. This statement inspired the Nellie Mae Education Foundation to launch a rapid response fund, [Racism is a Virus Too](#), focused on anti-Asian hostility.
- An open letter to philanthropy: [The Cure to Viral Racism is Within our Hands](#) was released in April, in coordination with an interview that appeared in the Chronicle of Philanthropy. The letter was signed by over 500 foundations, philanthropy serving organizations, and individuals at all leadership levels in philanthropy.
- One of the first philanthropy serving organizations to release a public statement [Our Shared Destiny: AAPIP Statement on Death of George Floyd](#).
- State of AAPI Philanthropy webinar scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> was re-purposed into a [conversation on anti-Black racism](#) for AAPIs in philanthropy in response to the new moment around addressing anti-Black racism. Over 200 people, mostly members of AAPIP (individual, institutional, giving circle members, etc.) joined this conversation.
- AAPIP staff produced [Solidarity Matters: A Poem to Philanthropy in the Age of Covid-19](#), a short video poem for a lighter mood embedded with serious messages that have been referenced, echoed and amplified in our other communications.

### **Leadership Circles**

AAPIP is convening AAPIs in philanthropy, starting at the highest leadership levels. Following a dinner in Seattle at the CHANGE Unity Summit, AAPIP has been working to gather AAPI CEOs into community. On June 8<sup>th</sup>, following the conversation on anti-Black racism, AAPIP convened a facilitated conversation with more than 40 AAPI CEOs of foundations and philanthropy serving organizations and networks. An historic first, it was a powerful coming together of AAPI CEOs committed to evolving and advancing racial equity practices in philanthropy.

Additionally, AAPIP has been working with a small group of AAPI trustees of some of the larger foundations. They are similarly committed to leveraging their roles as trustees to support their respective institutions in evolving and advancing racial equity practices. This group met pre-pandemic and also on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The next steps are to expand the group and to connect with the CEO group for next step conversations and actions.

**Giving Circles**

A few years ago, AAPIP completed its Giving Circle Campaign to successfully launch and support more than 50 giving circles focused on AAPI communities across the country. Each giving circle had a different focus and varying structures, but held in common the practice of involving community residents in collective giving practices while addressing community needs largely ignored or invisible to mainstream philanthropy.

While AAPIP was in the process of re-constituting its work with giving circles, COVID-19 hit, which then prompted the launch of our [AAPI Giving Circle COVID-19 Response Fund](#). This Fund supports AAPI focused Giving Circle efforts to address immediate economic and health concerns including anti-Asian hate (proactive and reactive responses) while also advancing civic engagement to build community power for the longer term. AAPIP's Giving Circle Network is anchored in AAPI communities all across the country, activating AAPI community members to support their local communities that often under-funded by mainstream philanthropy. Not only do they provide basic financial support to vital non-profit efforts, giving circles also offer an outlet for education and civic engagement in their communities while cultivating an understanding of philanthropy and giving. A first round of grants supported 10 giving circles across the country.

**SUMMARY**

This newly minted decade, just a few months in, is already one for the history books. In fact, it questions who should even write that history we are now living. We are at a pivotal moment that brings centuries of anti-Black racism to the forefront of our collective consciousness and the necessity of resetting our country's priorities and values is ever more urgent. How philanthropy meets this moment is critical and AAPIP has been working hard to do its part.